

Cablefax Daily™

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What the Industry Reads First

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FCC Orders: Time to Up E-Rate Cap, Rural Broadband Speeds

In a pure party-line vote, the **FCC** approved Thurs a previously proposed \$1.5bln funding increase for E-rate, which will raise the funding cap for the program for schools and libraries to \$3.9bln annually. For consumers, that means up to \$1.90 in additional fees on their monthly bills. The order also provides schools and libraries more flexibility and options to purchase broadband services. The move came after a July order aimed at freeing up funds for WiFi for schools and libraries. Also during the meeting, the last one of the year, the agency adopted an order that would require companies receiving USF subsidy for fixed broadband to offer speeds of at least 10 Mbps down and 1 Mbps up. The previous requirement of 4Mbps was set in 2011. To accommodate the higher speed requirement, the agency made changes to the USF program, including increasing the terms of support for price cap carriers from 5 years to 6 years, providing more flexibility in the build-out requirement, and requiring recipients that decline USF support to continue to deliver voice service to high-cost census blocks. Neither order sat well with the FCC's Republican pair. Raising the speed benchmark to 10 Mbps "largely ignores that this change roughly doubles the expected costs of deployment," *Ajit Pai* said in a statement. "An appropriate counterweight would have been increasing the term of support from 5 years to 10, but the order only increases it marginally, to 6." This risks "tipping the scales against deployment, which may strand millions of Americans in broadband dead zones for years to come." And *Pai* blasted the E-Rate order. Claiming the Commission would receive an "F" on its math skills, *Pai* argued under the overhaul costs will be much higher and that the order also lacks rules that would ensure the money will be spent where there's a fiber gap. Reiterating his opposition, fellow Republican commish *Michael O'Rielly* said the program would be even more inefficient and place unnecessary burden on consumers. **NCTA** shared some of the pair's sentiment. "While we agree with and applaud these goals, we remain concerned that certain elements in today's items may lead to wasteful and inefficient spending. As a result, we fully expect that the Commission and Congress will need to remain vigilant in reviewing the implementation of these programs to ensure that contributions paid by consumers to support universal service are spent wisely," it said in a statement. Chmn *Tom Wheeler* said he's determined to ensure E-rate is implemented efficiently.

Cable, OTT Golden Globe Love: Fun nomination year for cable in the Golden Globes, with newbie shows earning props from the **Hollywood Foreign Press Assn**. **HBO** led nominations again (no surprise) with 15 and has a shot at winning



Call for Entries

Entry Deadline:
December 12, 2014

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301.354.1851 • mfrench@accessintel.com

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best comedy series category with nods for "Girls" and freshman series "Silicon Valley." Missing from the comedy category were broadcast staples, such as **CBS'** "Big Bang Theory" and **ABC's** "Modern Family." The only broadcast show in the running for best comedy is **CW's** "Jane the Virgin." **Showtime's** 9 nominations are the most in network history, with freshman series "The Affair" receiving an impressive 3 noms, including for best drama. It's the only 1st year series to have a lead actor, lead actress and drama series nomination, and is tied with several other series for the most nominations. **FX's** " Fargo" had the most nominations for a TV program at 5, followed by fellow miniseries "True Detective" on HBO (4). FX scored 8 nominations, including 2 for "American Horror Story: Freak Show," with **Netflix** close behind with 7 ("House of Cards" and "Orange is the New Black" each received 3). Fellow OTT player **Amazon Instant Video** received 2 nods, both for rookie series "Transparent" (best comedy and actor for *Jeffrey Tambor*). Other cable nets in the running include **Starz** (2—both for "The Missing," including best miniseries), **Cinemax** (1- *Clive Owen* for "The Knick") and **SundanceTV** (1- *Maggie Gyllenhaal* for "The Honorable Woman"). **AMC** was shut out, with neither "Mad Men" or "The Walking Dead" recognized.

More on E-rate: The **FCC's** E-rate order also seeks to improve the overall administration of the program and to maximize the options schools and libraries have for purchasing broadband services. As part of the order, the agency would suspend the requirement that applicants seek funding for large upfront construction costs over several years, and would let applicants pay their share of one-time, up-front construction costs over multiple years. The order would also let schools and libraries build broadband facilities themselves if that's the most cost-effective option, and it would provide an incentive for state support of last-mile broadband facilities through a match from E-rate of up to 10% of the construction cost. In addition, the program seeks to stabilize WiFi funding by expanding the 5-year budget approach to offer more equitable support for internal connections through funding year 2019.

Portico Comes to Arris: The **Arris** Market platform will add **Net2TV's** streaming TV service **Portico TV** to its OTT content library beginning early next year. Arris Market is an HTML environment that works with the Arris Whole Home Solution to give operators flexibility in controlling the content and look of user experience. Portico currently offers 18 on-demand, full-length programs including "Better Homes and Gardens," "Southern Living," "Saveur" "Cooking Light," "World Eats," "Sports Illustrated," "Field & Stream," "A Closer Look with the AP," "PEOPLE This Week," "Celeb TV," and "Popular Science." All shows are updated weekly with the exception of news programs, which are updated daily.

PA Senators Nudge on Comcast-TWC: Senators in **Comcast's** home state of PA are asking **FCC** chmn *Tom Wheeler* to approve the company's acquisition of **Time Warner Cable** as soon as possible. "While we appreciate your commitment to a full, thorough review, we urge the Commission to act as quickly as possible," Sens *Bob Casey* (D) and *Pat Toomey* (R) wrote in a letter this week. "We believe the merger between Comcast and Time Warner [Cable] will produce extensive benefits to the public in terms of jobs and services for low-income households. Also, Comcast has informed us that the merger will provide improved Internet access with no corresponding decrease in competition."

U-NII-3 Waivers: The **FCC** Office of Engineering and Technology seeks comment on **Time Warner Cable** and **Comcast's** requests to waive FCC rules to allow the operation of Unlicensed National Information Infrastructure (U-NII) devices designed to operate in the 5.725-5.825 GHz (U-NII-3) band to operate at modified parameters in the 5.15-5.25 GHz (U-NII-1) band. In Aug, the Commission granted waivers for **Cox**, **TWC** and **Comcast** that allow already deployed U-NII-3 systems to obtain certification for operation in the U-NII-1 band. **TWC** and **Comcast** are now seeking similar waivers for additional yet-to-be deployed devices. **TWC** seeks a waiver to permit up to 10K new devices in the U-NII-1 band with up to 250 mW of conducted power and a power spectral density (PSD) of 11 dBm/MHz with a 6-dBi gain antenna. **Comcast** requests a similar waiver to permit up to 3,583 new devices. Comments are due Jan 12, with replies due Jan 26.

Joint Sales Agreements: The **FCC** Media Bureau on Thurs said the recently enacted STELA Reauthorization Act extends the deadline for parties of certain attributable broadcast joint sales agreements to come into compliance with FCC broadcast ownership limits to Dec 19, 2016 instead of June 19, 2016. Under the adopted FCC rules, same-market TV JSAs for more than 15% of the weekly ad time for the brokered stations are to be counted toward the brokering stations' media ownership cap. STELA gave current licenses 6 extra months to come into compliance.

Programming: On Mon, **Nick** debuts "ReactToThat," a new half-hour series from **YouTube** personalities The Fine Bros that features celebs and kids reacting to the best viral videos. It will air regularly Mon-Fri at 6pm through Jan 1.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

USA Tackles New Windowing

Model: Windowing matters, and **USA** knows it. The net renewed comedy series “Playing House” from **Universal Cable Productions** through a new windowing structure, allowing viewers each week to watch the following week’s ep on VOD before it airs on the net. Promotion will focus on the on-demand eps to drive viewers to watch in the early window. The new strategy aims to offer advertisers better placement across platforms and engage fans across VOD and TVE platforms. A new season of the series will debut in the 2nd half for 8 eps.

Nick Jr App: Nick is following on the success of its Nick App with the launch of the **Nick Jr App**, initially available for iPad. Designed with preschoolers in mind, the app offers educational activities, live simulcast streaming and VOD eps for authenticated users and more than 100 pieces of short-form content.

Shentel Joins SCTE: Add Shentel to the list of companies joining the SCTE's corporate alliance program. SCTE launched the program in April with **Comcast, Time Warner Cable** and **Suddenlink** as initial members.

People: **AMC** hired *Rick Olshansky* as head of business affairs, reporting to pres *Charlie Collier*. Olshansky previously served as business affairs consultant with **Microsoft Xbox Entertainment Studios** and has done stints with **Bedrock Media** and **NBCU**.

CableFAX Daily Stockwatch

Company	12/11 Close	1-Day Ch	Company	12/11 Close	1-Day Ch
BROADCASTERS/DBS/MMDS					
DIRECTV:	83.90	0.52	CONVERGYS:	20.48	0.17
DISH:	70.61	0.05	CSG SYSTEMS:	25.18	0.24
ENTRAVISION:	7.31	0.26	ECHOSTAR:	50.78	(0.19)
GRAY TELEVISION:	10.23	(0.07)	GOOGLE:	528.34	2.28
MEDIA GENERAL:	14.50	(0.26)	HARMONIC:	7.01	(0.2)
NEXSTAR:	51.33	(0.43)	INTEL:	36.70	0.28
SINCLAIR:	25.75	(0.47)	INTERACTIVE CORP:	62.87	0.03
MSOS			JDSU:	13.75	0.12
CABLEVISION:	20.04	(0.38)	LEVEL 3:	47.85	0.32
CHARTER:	164.16	(0.14)	MICROSOFT:	47.17	0.27
COMCAST:	55.90	0.33	NETFLIX:	334.63	0.31
COMCAST SPCL:	55.61	0.31	NIELSEN:	43.06	(0.71)
GCI:	12.37	0.24	RENTRAK:	73.85	0.77
GRAHAM HOLDING:	933.32	(4.99)	SEACHANGE:	5.50	0.07
LIBERTY BROADBAND:	50.65	(3.41)	SONY:	20.74	(0.05)
LIBERTY GLOBAL:	48.75	0.07	SPRINT NEXTEL:	4.40	0.04
SHAW COMM:	26.81	0.74	TIVO:	12.11	0.16
TIME WARNER CABLE:	147.15	1.95	UNIVERSAL ELEC:	61.45	(0.22)
PROGRAMMING			VONAGE:	3.37	0.09
21ST CENTURY FOX:	37.12	0.12	YAHOO:	49.94	0.73
AMC NETWORKS:	60.01	0.01	TELCOS		
CBS:	52.49	0.90	AT&T:	32.71	0.22
CROWN:	3.55	0.06	CENTURYLINK:	38.80	0.40
DISCOVERY:	34.05	0.15	TDS:	23.85	0.12
DISNEY:	91.75	1.27	VERIZON:	46.36	0.18
GRUPO TELEvisa:	33.55	(0.4)	MARKET INDICES		
HSN:	73.38	0.76	DOW:	17596.34	63.19
LIONSGATE:	32.84	(0.1)	NASDAQ:	4708.16	24.14
MSG:	72.65	0.44	S&P 500:	2035.33	9.19
SCRIPPS INT:	77.22	(0.39)			
STARZ:	28.67	0.07			
TIME WARNER:	83.31	0.10			
VIACOM:	73.17	(0.09)			
WWE:	11.39	UNCH			
TECHNOLOGY					
ADDVANTAGE:	2.56	0.04			
AMDOCS:	47.10	0.90			
AMPHENOL:	53.78	(0.04)			
AOL:	44.46	0.45			
APPLE:	111.62	(0.33)			
ARRIS GROUP:	28.03	0.02			
AVID TECH:	14.48	0.23			
BLNDER TONGUE:	2.30	UNCH			
BROADCOM:	42.83	0.15			
CISCO:	26.99	0.12			
COMMSCOPE:	25.49	0.06			
CONCURRENT:	6.92	0.15			



American Cable Association's

The logo for the 22nd Summit, featuring the number '22' in white on a black background, with 'nd' in white to its upper right, and the word 'SUMMIT' in yellow below it.

Solving the Puzzle!

www.ACASummit.org

Washington, D.C. | March 3-5, 2015

PROGRAMMER'S PAGE

The Tiny House Movement

Apparently some house hunters are going small, really small, in buying houses. HGTV tracks the large world of small living quarters in its "House Hunters" spinoff 5-ep series "Tiny House Hunters" (debuts Dec 15-19 at 10pm). While tiny houses come in all shapes, sizes and forms, they all focus on smaller spaces and simplified living. How small? Some of the houses are under 100 square feet! "We are exploring several ideas linked to the tiny house trend and, in fact, we have just finished a pilot called Tiny House Builders that will air on Dec 18. Whether they are dreaming of the beach, the mountains, log cabins, or tree houses, our viewers love seeing a fantasy lifestyle come true, and tiny houses are a perfect fit," Allison Page, gm for HGTV and **DIY Net**, told us. The new series is exactly the same format as House Hunters. In each ep, hunters tour 3 homes and choose the home that's perfect for their needs. "One family we have is a family of 6 that moved into a home that's 600 square feet!" Page said. Another ep features an L.A.-based sound therapist/energy healer touring a 400+sq foot yurt, a house on wheel and a beehive-like house that uses futuristic architecture technologies. Why go small? In addition to reducing mortgage costs, smaller space cuts down on chores, according to one of the house hunters. It's also about having a new lifestyle focusing on living with less and decreasing impact on environment over time. Take the beehive-like house from **Cal-Earth**, a CA-based nonprofit, for example. The houses are constructed by unskilled labor, using on-site earthen material, local supplies of sandbags and barbed wire, and a locally produced stabilizer. The goal is to use natural elements of earth, water, air and fire and transform them into sustainable earth architecture. "Tiny House Hunters is a natural House Hunters extension, and we know there is a hunger for more content around this movement... The net is always looking at potential spin-offs for House Hunters," Page said. - *Joyce Wang*

Reviews: "The American Revolution," Mon, 9, 10p ET; Tues, 9pm, **American Heroes Channel**. Maybe **Discovery** should rename it Unsung Heroes Channel. Seeing an opportunity to extend its brand, AHC has moved into history, profiling colonial heroes barely remembered today. The opening ep's 'star' is *Joseph Warren*, a polymath who was revolutionary Boston's most famous physician, as well as an ardent patriot, writer, provocateur, spy, politician and soldier. It's a fascinating story told well, with re-enactments and history professors' talking heads. -- "Getting On," season finale, Sun, 10:35pm, **HBO**. Another HBO finale, the series-ender of "The Newsroom," will get ink and eyeballs this weekend, yet the darkly comic, poignant "Getting On" is closing its season, too, without word about Season 3. We hope the patient lives. While few want to watch a series whose backdrop is a section of a hospital where the elderly are sent to die, *Getting* often spins comic gold while also touching serious issues. -- **Notable:** Time again for **Ovation's** "Battle of the Nutcrackers," which this year goes early morning, with a modern 'Cracker from *Youri Vámos* that uses *Tchaikovsky's* music to tell *Dickens' "A Christmas Carol"* (Mon, 7a ET) and a traditional treatment from the Royal Opera House (Tues, 7a). The Bolshoi and Mariinsky also battle. The winner's named Dec 22, 8p ET. - *Seth Arenstein*

Basic Cable Rankings (12/01/14-12/07/14)

Mon-Sun Prime			
1	ESPN	2.3	2154
2	HALL	2.0	1714
3	FAM	1.6	1500
4	FOXN	1.5	1405
4	TNT	1.5	1390
6	USA	1.4	1387
6	DSNY	1.4	1318
6	NFLN	1.4	989
9	DSE	1.3	84
10	TBSC	1.2	1128
11	DISC	1.1	1076
11	HIST	1.1	1070
13	HGTV	1.0	950
13	FX	1.0	925
15	LIFE	0.9	843
16	A&E	0.8	792
16	ADSM	0.8	792
16	FOOD	0.8	730
16	AMC	0.8	726
16	BRAV	0.8	698
16	ID	0.8	649
22	TLC	0.7	701
22	HMM	0.7	402
24	NAN	0.6	588
24	SPK	0.6	583
24	SYFY	0.6	568
24	CMDY	0.6	537
24	DSJR	0.6	422
29	APL	0.5	487
29	CNN	0.5	475
29	TVLD	0.5	472
29	MSNB	0.5	466
29	NGC	0.5	434
29	BET	0.5	412
29	H2	0.5	381
36	VH1	0.4	404
36	MTV	0.4	376
36	WETV	0.4	368
36	EN	0.4	365
36	ESP2	0.4	342
36	OWN	0.4	298
36	LMN	0.4	293
36	DXD	0.4	289
36	GSN	0.4	281
36	NGWD	0.4	216
36	BOOM	0.4	137

*Nielsen data supplied by ABC/Disney

Cablefax Webinar

Dec. 16 • 1:30 – 3pm ET.

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